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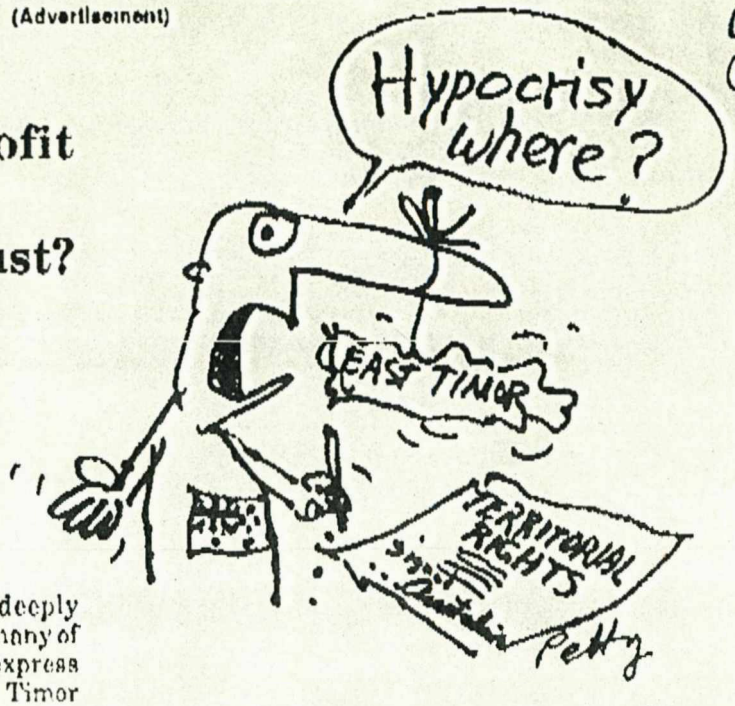
Are We Going to Profit from the East Timor Holocaust?

An Open Letter to the Prime Minister



Dear Mr Hawke

We, the undersigned citizens, who are deeply concerned about the situation in East Timor, many of us being refugees from East Timor, wish to express our strong opposition to the recently signed Timor Gap Treaty under which Australia plans to exploit East Timor's oil and natural gas resources.

This Treaty which divides between Australia and Indonesia the rich oil and natural gas resources that belong to the people of East Timor is a blatant violation of both the letter and the spirit of international law.

The people of East Timor continue to suffer horrendous human rights violations at the hands of the Indonesian military, probably the worst of any people since World War II, and we deeply resent the statement by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that

there is no binding legal obligation not to recognise the acquisition of territory acquired by force,

which is not only plain hypocrisy but also contemptuous of the United Nations General Assembly which has declared unanimously (including Australia's vote!) that

no territorial acquisition or special advantage resulting from aggression shall be recognised as lawful.

In our opinion the Timor Gap Treaty represents the division of stolen property between Australia and Indonesia. Instead of proceeding with the conclusion of the Treaty, we ask you to use your influence with the Suharto regime to facilitate an orderly decolonisation of East Timor under UN supervision so that the exploitation of East Timor's resources may take place in collaboration with the rightful owners of those resources – should the people of East Timor so desire.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Aarons, Sydney • Phillip Adams, Darlinghurst • Louise Adler, Melbourne • A.H. Alcock, Forestville • Alice Springs Peace Group • George Apap, Adelaide • Amanda Armstrong, Sydney • Allan Ashbolt, Sydney • Australian Coalition for Disarmament and Peace, Sydney South • Australian Student Christian Movement, O'Connor • Jorge & Jacinta Arevedo, Adelaide • Dr Ben Bartlett, Sydney • Carol Batton, Canberra • Virginia Bell, Sydney • Kathie Bednar, Adelaide • Lynda Boland, Sydney • Bob Boughton, Alice Springs • Ceu Brites, Sydney • Fernando Brites, Sydney • Gil Brites, Sydney • Dr Bob Brown, Hobart • Anthony Burke, Leichhardt • Wendy Caird, Sydney • Jack Cambourn, Sydney • Campaign for an Independent East Timor (ACT), Canberra • Campaign for an Independent East Timor (SA), Adelaide • George Campbell, Amalgamated Workers Union, Surry Hills • Dr Anita Chan, Giralang • Chile Solidarity Committee, Alice Springs • Chrys Chrysello, Bondi Junction • J. Collins, Mosman • Miguel Contreras, Sydney • Senator John Coulter, Norwood • Carlos da Costa, Sydney • Isolino da Costa, Sydney • Joanna da Luz, Sydney • Janet Darling OAM, Semaphore • Abe David, Sydney • Sharon Davis, Sydney • Maria de Almeida, Sydney • Patricia de Almeida, Sydney • Joaquim De Castro, Wagaman • Robert Donin, Sydney • Arthur Duncan, Sydney • Jim Dunn, Moruya • Senator Irina Dunn, Sydney • Deborah Durham, Sydney • Leonie Ebert, Adelaide • Julie-Ann Ellis, Grange • Warren Fahey, Paddington • Ivan Felipe, Sydney • Nelson Felipe, Sydney • Alfredo Ferreira, Wulagi • Dr Ross Fitzgerald, Brisbane • Dr Ken Fry, Bowles • Patricia Fuary, Turner • Kirsten Garrett, Sydney • Max Gillies, Melbourne • Robin Gollan, Canberra • Kathy Golian, Sydney • Jenny Groves, Darwin • Tim Gunn, Waverley • Dr Richard Gunn, Brighton • A.R. Gutierrez, Holder • Cecilia Gutierrez, Holder • Sister Roberta Hackendorf, Marrayatville • Mimi Hanna, Adelaide • Bob Hanney, Adelaide • Peter & Elizabeth Harvey, Bathurst • Dr Caroline Harvey, Hazelbrook • Dr Phillip Harvey, Sydney • Rod Hibberd, Leichhardt • Barry Hindess, Canberra • Hobart East Timor Committee, Hobart • Susan Hogan, Leichhardt • Llr Jackson, Sydney • Senator Joan Jenkins, West Perth • Maria Rosa Joaquim, Prospect • Karen Jones, Killara • Jura Books, Petersham • Tony & Rose Jurd, Holder • Tony Katsigiannis, Bexley South • Prof. R.M. Keesing, Canberra • Tony Lamb, Curtin • Max Lane, Duffy • Stephen Langford, Paddington • Helen Liddle, Sydney • Marie Lock, Adelaide • Keryn Lock, Hill End • Geraldo Magno, Sydney • Gina Manno, Adelaide • Frank Mav-Manno, Sydney • Dr Ruth McCracken, Sydney • Andrew McMillan, Darwin • Dr Linda McQueen, Sydney • Greg Mead, Adelaide • Sister Janet Mead, Adelaide • Dr Damien Mead, Hilltown • Margaret Moore, Kingston • Annette Morgan, Duffy • Sheila Morrison, Nelson Bay • Muriel Nicol, Sydney • Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific Committee, Surry Hills • Robin Osborne, Sydney • Graham Paimount, Adelaide • Geoff Parish, Sydney • Mike Parsons, Yacka • Jim Percy, Broadway • Geoff Portman, Sydney • Jeune Pritchard, Sydney • Serafico Quadros, Bonnyrigg • Rev John Queripel, Bar Beach • Jose Ramos-Horta, Sydney • Robyn Ravlich, Sydney • John Reid, Canberra • R.J. Riley, Brighton-Le-Sands • Dr David Robinson, Haberfield • Peter Robson, Sydney • Edna Ross, Balmain • Jeane Ryan, Sydney • Dr Michael Sandom, Sydney • Sister Diana Santlhuben O.P., Strathfield • Mario Sarmento, Sydney • Gil Scrine, Hazelbrook • Ken Sewell, Petersham • Shirley Shackleton, 8th Melbourne • Joan Simpson, Bexley • Michael Smitherens, Canberra • Antonio Soares, Sydney • Fernanda Soares, Sydney • Victor Soares, Sydney • R Solon, Dulwich Hill • South Coast Labour Council, Wollongong • Sasha Stepan, Clayton • Jim Stevens, Geebung • Michael Sullivan OAM, Catholic Mission & Development Office, Manuka • Michael Sullivan, Adelaide • Tomaree Peace & Disarmament Association, Nelson Bay • Dr Jonathan Unger, Giralang • Tom Uren, Evatt Foundation, Balmain • Senator Jo Valentine, West Perth • Johanna van der Baan, Adelaide • Dr Michael Van Langenberg, Sydney • Fernando Viegas, Sydney • Dr Michael Wagner, Turner • Pat Walsh, Northcote • Hilary Weatherburn, Waverton • Robert Wesley-Smith, Darwin • Martin Wesley-Smith, Lilyfield • Christine Wheeler, Melbourne • Ted Wheelwright, Sydney • Patrick White, Sydney • Helen Wilson, Newtown • Margaret Windsor, Colonel Light Gardens • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Glenorchy • Jaimito Ximenes, Sydney • Lourdes Ximenes, Sydney.

The following signatories from overseas also support this letter:

Kiyoko Furusawa, Osaka, Japan • Minoru Ohta, Osaka, Japan • Monju Mikio, Osaka, Japan • Kazuhiku Onodera, Fukui, Japan • Hisashi Nakamura, Kyoto, Japan • Kiyoaki Ishikawa, Osaka, Japan • Kobayashi Toshiko, Osaka, Japan • Akira Uchisaka, Osaka, Japan • Yoshihiro Kashimoto, Osaka, Japan • Wada Tetsuo, Hyogo, Japan • Tokuyama Tadasu, Osaka, Japan • Genichi Seno, Osaka, Japan • Sapporo East Timor Support Group, Japan • Sendai East Timor Support Group, Japan • Tokyo East Timor Association, Japan • Nagoya YWCA East Timor Concern Group, Japan • Solidarity with Independent East Timor, Kyoto, Japan • Kure YWCA East Timor Concern Group, Hiroshima, Japan • Zentsuji City East Timor Independence and Peace Conference, Kagawa, Japan • Campaign for Independent Namibia, Kyoto, Japan • Catholic Justice and Peace, Hiroshima Committee, Japan • Keiko Ueno, Osaka, Japan • Toiichi Horikawa, Tokyo, Japan • Masamichi Kijima, Tokyo, Japan • Takaharu Matsuda, Kyoto, Japan • Samuel Keller, Schwaz, Austria • H.J.C. Princen, Jakarta, Indonesia • Comissao Para Direitos Povo Maubare, Lisbon, Portugal • Pierre Alain Tissot, Cossonay, Switzerland • IMBAS, SE Asia Human Rights Institute, Frankfurt, West Germany • John Pilger, London, United Kingdom • TAPOL, the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign, London, United Kingdom.

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